



NEWSLETTER



Kittitas County FSA

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Office Staff

Brent Reitmeier, CED

Farm Loan Staff

(509) 454-5746

Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO
Crispin Garza,
Service Center Liaison
Sandy Christensen, FLP Tech.

County Committee

Brent DeKoning, Chair
John Dyk, Vice Chair
Rick Haberman, Member
Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Next COC Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
@ 9:00 a.m.

Important Dates

June 1

DCP/ACRE deadline

June 30

Acreage reporting deadline

Websites:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>



FSA Committee Election Results

Rick Haberman was reelected to serve on the County Committee for a 3-year term. Rick will serve with current members Brent DeKoning and John Dyk on the Committee. David Rinehart was elected as first alternate, and Doss Roberts was elected as second alternate to the Committee. We would like to thank the candidates in this year's election for their willingness to run, and also everyone who took time to vote. The County Committee is your link to USDA, making local control possible in implementing FSA programs.

Noninsured Crop Loss Coverage

Producers may now purchase catastrophic crop loss coverage for *noninsurable* 2012 spring planted crops under the *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)*. The cost of the coverage will be \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per County. **The application closing date is March 15** for most spring planted crops. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins January 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with a crop share interest on DCP base acres must have a share in direct and counter-cyclical payments.
- Changes on the farm before or after enrolling in DCP/ACRE must be immediately reported to the local FSA office, examples: ownership changes, producer changes such as individuals and entities, and change in crop shares arrangements.
- No changes are allowed after September 30, 2012.

New AGI Forms Required for 2012 Participants

FSA and NRCS program participants, including all members of participating entities, must meet certain Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements to qualify for benefits. Starting for the 2012 crop year, a new AGI form has been developed that both reports whether an applicant or member meets the AGI requirements, and authorizes the IRS to confirm that information for FSA.

The new form also reflects an additional AGI limitation applicable only to 2012 direct payments. In addition to the \$500,000 average nonfarm AGI and the \$750,000 average farm AGI limitation, a \$1 million average AGI limitation will be applicable for 2012 direct payments.

New this year, most power-of-attorney authorizations will not work for this form. The

form will have to be signed by the participant or entity member themselves. IRS will not accept FSA power-of-attorney forms. These new AGI forms are available today from your county office or on the FSA internet site.

Report of Payments

All producers who received FSA program payments during calendar year 2011 should have received a form CCC-1099-G, in the latter part of January. This form indicates the amount of payments that you received during the calendar year 2011. The amounts listed on this form have been reported to the Internal Revenue Service. It is very important this year that you closely review this document to ensure it accurately reflects the payments you received in 2011. If it does not, or if you have any question about the data, please contact our office.

Farm Loans Available

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$1,214,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Yakima County loan office staff at (509) 454-5746.

Acreage Reporting Deadline

Producers who wish to maintain eligibility for the following programs need to file an acreage report with our office by June 30:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants
- Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) & Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) participants
- Wheat, feed grain, honey & wool producers who wish to maintain eligibility for price support loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) participants
- FSA disaster programs including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for **2011 crop losses**.

Planting dates are needed for the crops being reported. Please make note of your planting dates, and have them with you when you come in to file your acreage report. Late-file acreage reports require a fee for a farm visit.

Changing Banks?

All Farm Service Agency payments are currently made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or in situations that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.